FACTS FINDING PROJECTS!

Washington, D. C.—Interviews with ex-slaves and studies of the Negro in business and industry are included in the mass of information already made available by forty-four research projects of the Works Progress Administration engaged in unearthing many little known facts on the economic, social and historic life of the American Negro.

Through these projects the dual purpose is achieved of meeting a public need for more information about the Negro and of providing thousands of job opportunities for capable professional and technical workers who otherwise would be unemployed, officials said.

Among the agencies sponsoring WPA research projects directly related to the Negro, the National Urban League leeads the field of Negro sponsors. This organization has five projects to its credit.

The Pittsburgh branch of the League has made two series of studies of the Negro in the iron and steel industries at Pittsburgh and in nearby manufacturing communities.

Four Negro institutions of higher learning are responsible for six research projects giving employment to trained investigators , interviewers, statisticians and other qualified professional and technical workers.

Interviews with ex-slaves have been compiled by Kentucky State Industrial College at Frankfort, Kentucky. This work gives a history of the experienc eof former slaves before the Civil War and during the Reconstruction. Besides preserving firsthand information on the life and times of former slaves, it makes available for writers and dramatists a rich store of authenic folk maerial.

Federal Writers To Study Negro Life

A study of contemporary Negro life and history will be developed during 1939 by the Federal Writers Project and a committee of prominent citizens headed by Prof. C. O. Roger, principal of Douglas High School, according to James M. Thompson, director.

Director Thompson has called a second conference of the committee to meet Saturday, January 28th, at which time more definite plans covering the scope of the work will be developed.

"It is going to take a deal of volunteer assistance from the Negroes all over Oklahoma to make effort to preserve the history of Oklahoma Negroes what it ought to be," said declared senior writer Lay, in discussing the project.

Lay said that paid investigators had been employed but the stupendousness of the task was going to call the citizens of the entire state coordinating with the research workers.

"Negroes in Oklahoma ought feel pride in having unearthed the cultural contributions they have made to this western country and civilization in the United States," said Lay, and he urged that volunteer representatives from any section of Oklahoma attend the meeting.

The January 28th meeting will be held at the Community Center, Oklahoma City, and will open at 1:00 p. m.

Additional Information on Negro Economic, Historic Life Gathered

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5—Interviews with ex-slaves and studies of the Negro in business and industry are included in the mass of information already made available by forty-four research projects of the Works Progress Administration engaged in unearthing many little facts on the economic, social and historic life of the American Negro.

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Among the agencies sponsoring WPA research projects directly related to the Negro, the National Urban League leads the field of Negro sponsors. This organization has five projects to its credit.

The Pittsburgh branch of the League has made two series of studies of the Negro in the iron and steel industries at Pittsburgh and in nearby manufacturing communities. Two other studies undertaken by the Urban League with WPA aid are those of the Seattle, Washington, branch, entitled "Negroes in Seattle" and 'Seatle—the Negro Follows the Pioneer." The Newark, New Jersey, branch is co-sponsoring, with the New Jersey Department of Institutions and Agencies, a study entitled "The Negro in Industry Utilities, Commerce and Public Service in New Jersey, 1934.".

Four Negro institutions of higher learning are responsible for six research projects giving employment to trained investigators, interviewers, statisticians and other qualified professional and technical workers.

Houston College Aids

Houston college for Negroes, at Houston, Texas, is sponsoring three studies — a business directory and church survey of Houston, a report of Negro youth not in school, and "A Follow-up Study of 1936 Graduates of the Houston High School and a Study of Occupational Desires of 156 Seniors."

Interviews with ex-slaves have been compiled by Kentucky State Industrial college at Frankfort, Kentucky. This work gives a history of the experience of former slaves before the Civil War and during the period of Reconstruction. Besides preserving firsthand information on the life and times of former slaves, it makes available for writers and dramatists a rich store of authentic folk material.

At Bordentown, New Jersey, the Manual Training school is sponsoring a state-wide survey of business enterprises operated by Negroes.

A study of the supply of, and demand for, Negro teachers in Missouri schools is being made by Lincoln university at Jefferson City, Missouri.

Other institutions of learning sponsoring important studies of the Negro include the Universities of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

The studies undertaken at these institutions include: industrial home work; detailed studies of the numbers, characteristics and distribution of all Negro and Mexican children brought to the Chicago Juvenile Court since 1936; an analysis of occupational opportunities among 10,477 employed in 750 industrial plants in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; early explorations in Oklahoma, and a survey of the economic status of Tennessee Negro families.

In Los Angeles County two research projects are shedding light upon hidden facts on the Negro. One gives a historical resume of the role played by the race in the devolpment of the city of Los Angeles; the other is making a survey of white-collar and skilled Negro labor in Los Angeles County during the years 1935 and 1936.

The Delaware County Tuberculosis Association has completed a study of living conditions of 500 Negro families in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Other health studies bearing upon the incidence of Tuberculosis among colored citizens are sponsored by health departments in Washington, D. C., at San Francisco, California, and New York City.

The country's 900,000 Negro farmers will be interested in the WPA survey of agricultural labor in Todd County, Kentucky and Concordia Parish, Louisiana. The Farm Security Administration and the Department of Agriculture are sponsoring these projects.

Other Federal agencies acting as sponsors include the United States Housing Authority, the Department of Interior's Office of Education and the National Youth Administration.

Numerous studies have revealed the economic, occupational and health status of the race in various parts of the country.

Officials expressed regret that Negro land-grant colleges and other Negro agencies eligible for sponsorship have not found it possible to make even a wider use of WPA projects to further scientific research, but explained that many Negro colleges have found it necessary to devote all available WPA funds to the construction and repair of buildings or other physical equipment.

Birmingham Ala Age Herald
March 29, 1939

SOCIOLOGISTS TO MEET

Experts Of Alabama And Mississippi To Speak At Atlanta Parley

UNIVERSITY, Ala., March 19—Eight representatives of schools and colleges in Alabama and Mississippi will appear on the program of the Southern Sociological Society convention to be held in Atlanta, Ga., March 31-April 1. Dr. E. W. Gregory, Jr., president of the society and head of the University of Alabama department of sociology, has announced.

Papers will be read at the Atlanta meeting by Harold L. Geisert and Howard H. Harlan, University of Alabama; W. L. Leap, Birmingham-Southern College; Dorothy Dickins, Mississippi State College, and Ralph N. Davis, Tuskegee Institute.

Daniel D. Droba, University of Mississippi, will lead discussions of two of the convention papers. Dr. Gregory will preside at the evening sessions March 31.

Now You Tell Me One—Collectors Of Folklore Are Finding Tall Tales

BY EDDY GILMORE

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Collectors in the folklore section of the Federal Writers Project said Saturday they had collected enough tall tales to make the famous Burlington, Wis., Liars Club sound like a truth meeting.

They came from all over the country.

Nebraska has the story of Febold Feboldson who experienced the year of the striped weather—it was both hot and rainy in alternating mile strips.

The sun popped Febold's corn, and the rain washed the sugar from the sugar cane into the corn fields and Febold had sugared popcorn.

Then there was Antoine Barada, who jumped so far in a jumping contest that his family had to wait three hours for dinner until he walked back.

From the South came a story of Daddy Mention, who could escape from any chaingang in the world. He whirled his chains with such velocity that he took off like a plane.

In Pittsburgh the government folk-lore collector picked up a story about Joe Magarac, the strongest steel worker ever to blow out the Bessemer.

Stories of John Henry, the giant Negro, turned up in many states and the federal writers have enough on him to get out a biography.

One of the biggest whoppers of all came from Indiana—the story of the hoop snake.

The hoop snake rolled down hill with such force one day that he couldn't stop, crashed into a wagon, and plunged his fangs into an oaken shaft.

The poison was so strong that the shaft swelled like a balloon. When the citizens got around to cutting it, the swollen shaft yielded 350 feet of lumber.

COLORED PROFESSOR TO SPEAK BEFORE DIXIE SOCIOLOGISTS

Tuskegee, March 30—(ANP)—Ralph N. Davis, director of the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, will present a paper at the annual spring session of the Southern Sociological Society in Atlanta, March 31 and April 1, on the subject, "The Role of the Negro Newspaper in American Life."

Professor Charles G. Gomillion, instructor of sociology in the school of education, and Monroe N. Work, editor of the Negro Yearbook, also will attend the conference.

The other Negro to present a paper before the Society is Walter G. Chivers, professor of sociology, Morehouse college, Atlanta. His paper is entitled "Adult Education Among Negroes."

RESEARCH BEING MADE- 1939

Davis to Speak Before Dixie Sociologists

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NASHVILLE, TENN. BANNER
JUN 2, 1939
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RECORDS AND RESEARCH

Calvin's Servece

The Department of Records and Research is doing valuable service by meeting a long-felt need of the Negro race. It does special research work on particular subjects relating to the Negro, by collecting, compiling and presenting information with respect to Negro life and conditions.

Indeed, the student at Tuskegee is given every opportunity to develop himself along all lines. Great attention is paid to the religious and cultural sides of college life, and the elasticity of the curriculum make it possible for the needs and aptitudes of the individual students to be taken into account.

The spirit of Booker T. Washington still lives, because Tuskegee still realizes that the person who has mastered something, who understands what he is doing, who is master of himself in the classroom, out in the world, master of himself everywhere, is the true scholar.

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Danville, Va., Register
May 10, 1939

20 DANVILLES IN U.S., FOUND

Negro Railway Mail Clerk Spends Year Gathering Data on Cities

There are 20 cities in the United States bearing the name of Danville, J. H. Fuller, negro railway mail clerk has found after a year's study. The populations range from 37,452 people at Danville, Illinois, to 60 to Danville, Washington.

As an interesting sidelight, Fuller learned that Danville, Illinois, has only 31 policemen, while Danville, Virginia, a smaller city, has 36.

For the past 21 years Fuller, who is a World War veteran and prominently identified with the negro American Legion post here, has made three round trips every week between Danville and Norfolk.

States where are located Danvilles with regular postoffices and organized communities are in:

Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Vermont, California, Arkansas, Ohio, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Georgia, Iowa, Alabama, Maine, Tennessee, Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri and Washington. They are listed in their relative population standings.

Fuller reported that the job of compiling the Danville symposium was not so easy. He wrote to mayors, chiefs of police and chambers of commerce. Sometime he got no answers to his letters but he kept plugging away until he received the information he sought and as proof of the accuracy of his enquiry he has a sheaf of letters mailed from the 20 Danville's in the United States.

Carnegie Corp. To Conduct Survey On 'Negro In America'

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 10—(ANP)—The Carnegie Corporation of New York, which is sponsoring an intensive study of "The Negro In America," has enlisted the services of Doxey A. Wilkerson, associate professor of education, Howard University, it was announced this week. Wilkerson, granted a sabbatical leave for the academic year, 1939-40, will join Dr. Ralph J. Bunche (also a Howard U. faculty member) as member of the full-time research staff which will direct the study. Dr. Bunche has also been granted a year's leave of absence. He and Professor Wilkerson are the only two Negro members of the Carnegie staff.

Savannah, Ga., Press
November 1, 1939

MAKING SURVEY OF STATUS OF NEGROES

STOCKHOLM AND HOWARD UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS VISIT HERE

Dr. Gunnar Myrdal, professor of political economy at Stockholm University, and Dr. Ralph J. Bunche of the political science department of Howard University, are in Savannah in connection with a broad social survey sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation.

Principal study of the educators at this time is the political status of negroes in the South, an undertaking in which they must interview hundreds of persons and study thousands of books and phamplets.

Dr. Bunche and Dr. Myrdal, the latter a former senator in the Swedish Riksdag, came here yesterday afternoon from Atlanta. While in the city they will interview white and colored people. Among those already seen were John L. Cabell, county tax collector, in whose office is kept registration records, and Judge Emanuel Lewis of the Municipal Court. J. G Lemon, negro attorney, was also interviewed, and is assisting the visitors in their local contacts.

Dr. Myrdal was high in his praise for Savannah.

"Anyone who comes to the United States has to come to Savannah, you know," he said, and compared the city's importance second to that of Washington.

THE AGE OF STATISTICS

WHEN THE LATE Dr. Booker T. Washington was at the height of his power he discovered that there was no reliable organization from which records and statistics on the Negro could be obtained, and so he set up at Tuskegee Institute a Department of Records and Research, under the able leadership of Monroe N. Work. This organization did some fine pioneer work in publishing through the Negro Year Book and the press statistics of every sort on the Negro.

Since Dr. Washington's death the statistician has come into his own. There are a number of institutions, such as the Gallup Foundation which can, for a fee, supply statistics on almost any conceivable subject. And research work is part of almost every college and university. But in the case of the Negro, this work has been allowed to lag and is now largely confined to statistics on lynching and census figures.

The Negro press, we believe, is badly in need of an independent organization to make a study of its gains and losses in advertising and circulation, to gather figures on the purchasing power of the Negro in various localities, unemployment and the need for Negro workers in industrial center. There are any number of such organizations which supply such information to the daily press—the Audit Bureau of Circulation, Standard Rate and Data Service, schools of journalism, etc. but the Negro field in this respect has been neglected.

We can think of several Negroes eminently equipped for this work, such as Prof. Davis of Tuskegee, assistant to Dr. Work, and Charles E. Hall of Washington, D. C., who was for many years in the Census Department, but for some reason they have not considered the Negro press a profitable field for their talents. A study of the Negro press as a whole, with emphasis on the territory they cover and the number of people they serve would be great value to advertising agencies and national advertisers, and could be sold to many newspapers who are trying to sell the idea of advertising to these people.

And speaking of schools of journalism, we have often wondered why such institutions as Howard and Fisk do not have courses in journalism. Besides work on the Negro newspapers, there are a number of civil service jobs available for trained newspaper workers in city and state departments, which have to deal with the public. Schools of Journalism in the Negro colleges could do much of the research work so badly needed by the Negro press at this time.

Getting Data

DR. RALPH J. BUNCHE, staff member of the "Study of the Negro in America" now being prepared under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation of New York City. He was in Norfolk last week doing research on the project. Dr. Bunche is on a trip through several states in connection with the study.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
March 30, 1939

Sociological Society Convenes Here Friday

Teachers and students of sociology, prison officials and social workers from many sections of the south will convene in Atlanta Friday and Saturday for the fourth annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. The convention will open at 10 o'clock Friday at the Biltmore Hotel.

Many outstanding scholars will participate in the discussions, which will include such topics as marriage trends, welfare work, rural problems, population problems, birth control, criminology and penology. Approximately 500 persons are expected to attend.

E. W. Gregory, of the University of Alabama, president of the society, will preside at the convention. Comer Woodward, of Emory University, is chairman of the committee on arrangements for the convention.

At a banquet Friday evening, Dr. Harvey Cox, president of Emory University, will welcome the delegates.

Among those who will address the convention are Ellsworth Faris, of the University of Chicago; Harnell Hart, of Duke University; Rupert B. Vance, of the University of North Carolina; Clyde V. Kiser, of the Milbank Fund of New York; J. B. Gittler, of the University of Georgia; Ralph N. Davis, of Tuskegee Institute; B. O. Williams, of Clemson College; Giles A. Hubert, of Fisk University; L. F. Chapman, superintendent of the Florida State Prison, and Dr. Mildred R. Mell, of Agnes Scott College.

Penal Institutions To Shed Walls in Future, Speaker Says

By WALTER A. SMITH

The prison of tomorrow, a wallless, liberal institution dedicated to the task of furnishing prisoners with "an atmosphere of more normal living," was described by L. F. Chapman, superintendent of the Florida State Prison System in an address before the Southern Sociological convention here Saturday.

Discussing modern trends in penology at the final session of the two-day convention, Mr. Chapman said the larger prisons of today are gigantic laboratories, "experimenting with the building of personalities and character."

The prison of tomorrow, he said should have no stone walls surrounding it. In its place, he advocated a good stout fence.

Florida Is Cited

A triple industrial fence surrounding the Florida State Prison he said, furnishes the security of a wall "with none of the evils of a wall."

"Hidden behind walls," he explained, "prisoners note unceasingly these masonries, speculate on the foundations, the probable thickness, methods of scaling.

"The wall is imbedded in their very souls.

"Finally, in the presence of this standing challenge, prisoners are willing to brave rifles and tear-gas on an assault on the wall."

At the Florida prison, he said, "1,800 men watch a ball game, yelling, applauding, booing and never a glance at the fence. There's nothing but God's countryside beyond the fence, cattle in the fields, cars on the highway, all a familiar aspect."

Prisoner's Letter Quoted

To show the effect of that situation, Mr. Chapman quoted as follows from a letter written by a prisoner:

"This is a funny place. They give you just enough liberty to make you realize what you are missing. You can see and walk about and wave at cars and have visitors in the park and never think of escaping. You only think what a fool you are to do things that get you shut away from the best of life."

The speaker emphasized that "a wholesome atmosphere rather than a forbidding one is best in prison. Normal living will find a deeper response in winning men from crime than regimentation. In prison life, waste must be abolished by enrichment of personal worth."

He advocated freer use of parole and probation, limiting of prison population to 1,500 persons for each institution, and greater freedom for wardens in determining policies of prison operation.

"Normal Living" Elements

Mr. Chapman listed cleanliness, obedience to authority, work, elimination of mystery from everyday affairs, and constant mental expansion as other necessary elements in preserving "normal living" for prisoners.

Prison rules should be few and simple, the penologist said, but no infraction of them should be overlooked.

"Prisoners should know the justice of imprisonment, the sanity of discipline, the source of detainers and their nature, the theory of pardons, and the rewards of a change of face. Knowledge is mental health, absence of which invites a feverish mentality which breeds social miasmas," he declared.

Mr. Chapman urged work for prisoners, and stated public clamor against this practice "passes my understanding."

Crime Cause Aanalyzed

"Crime itself is usually the violent effort to live without work," he asserted. "To permit a prisoner to live in idleness and ease, receiving meanwhile creature comforts of food, clothing, shelter, entertainment and hospitalization, confirms him in the false philosophy that had damned to extinction a generation of the old nobility in many nations.

"In such a case the prison itself recomes criminal."

Other speakers discussing the prison problem at the Saturday session of the convention included J. Herman Johnson, of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, who discussed the Alabama parole system.

Another section of the final day discussion was devoted to race and culture problems. Among the speakers in this group was Ralph M. Davis, of the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
April 1, 1939

PRISON REFORMS DISCUSSED BY SOCIOLOGISTS

Jacksonville, Fla. Times-Union
April 2, 1939

Florida Prison System Chief Addresses Sociological Body

Value of "Normal Living" Atmosphere in Handling Prisoners Emphasized By Chapman.

ATLANTA, April 1, (AP)—An atmosphere of more normal living represents the modern trend in penology, L. F. Chapman, superintendent of the Florida State Prison System, said in an address before the Southern Sociological Society here today.

By normal living he said he meant cleanliness, obedience to constituted authority, work, elimination of mystery from everyday affairs, elimination of walls, and constant mental expansion.

Chapman spoke at the final session of the two-day convention of the society.

The larger prisons of today are in reality gigantic laboratories, he said, "experimenting with the building of personalities and character."

"Each prison is carrying on its individual experiment," the Florida warden said, "and in the end doubtless it will be determined that parole and probation should be used more freely, that no prison should house more than 1500 men lest they be lost in the mass, and that gardens should be given greater freedom in determining the policy of prison operation."

It may also be determined, said Chapman, "that a wholesome atmosphere rather than a forbidding one is best in prison, that normal living will find a deeper response in winning men from crime than regimentation, and that in prison life waste must be abolished by enrichment of personal worth."

Prison rules should be few and simple, Warden Chapman said. "There are only six in Florida, viz, no liquor, no weapons, no gambling, respect for the officers, cleanliness and work, but these few are sternly enforced. No infraction of a rule should be overlooked, however trival, not for the sake of the rule but for training in obedience to authority."

Regarding "mystery," Chapman said no prisoner should be kept in the dark about anything concerning him.

"Prisoners should know the justice of imprisonment, the sanity of discipline, the source of detainers and their nature, the theory of pardons, and the rewards of a change of face. Knowledge is mental health, absence of which invites a feverish mentality which breeds social miasmas."

Chapman said prisons should have no walls, and referred to the fact that in Florida a triple industrial fence furnishes security of a wall "with none of the evils of a wall."

"Hidden behind walls," he said, "prisoners note unceasingly these masonries, speculate on the foundations, the probable thickness, methods of scaling.

"The wall is imbedded in their very souls.

"Finally, in the presence of this standing challenge, prisoners are willing to brave rifles and tear-gas on an assault on the wall. With deep longing they face the constant mystery. Such a situation is not normal."

At the Florida prison, he said, "eighteen hundred men watch a ball game, yelling, applauding, booing, and never a glance at the fence. There's nothing but God's country-side beyond the fence, cattle in the fields, cars on the highway, all a familiar aspect.

"There is no occasion to wonder to speculate. No mystery, therefore no restlessness."

To show the effect of that situation on prisoners he quoted as follows from a letter:

"This is a funny place," the prisoner wrote. "They give you just enough liberty to make you realize what you are missing. You can see and walk about and wave at cars and have visitors in the park and never think of escaping. You only think what a fool you are to do things that get you shut away from the best of life."

Chapman advocates work for prisoners, however, and said public clamor against work "passes my understanding."

"To my way of thinking," he said "no greater injury can be done any man than to train him to believe that he can live without working. Any man lives at less than his best if he be not devoted to the ancient tent that work is better than leisure.

"Crime itself usually is the violent effort to live without work. T

permit a prisoner to live in idle ness and ease, receiving meanwhil creature comforts of food, clothing shelter, entertainment and hospitali zation, confirms him in the fals philosophy that had damned t extinction a generation of the olc nobility in many nations.

"In such a case the prison itself becomes criminal."

Other speakers discussed the pris on problem on today's program including J. Herman Johnson of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, who said the parole system in Alabama "leaves much to be desired" al though a "begining has been made."

Another section of the final day discussion was devoted to race and culture problems.

Ralph M. Davis, of the Depart ment of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, told how the negro newspaper reflects the "consciousness of the group arising out of a conflict of situa tions, and is a specialized press of a minority group."

Negro papers, he said, attempt to bring about some changes in the social order affecting negro-white relationships, and to bring about some improvements within the ne gro group.

"In the process of news selection and news presentation, values con nected with participation and recog nition are basic factors in deter mining news items."

He said the "distinguishing and essential characteristics of the ne gro papers are the high frequency of occurance, the method of treat ment, and the prominence of dis play of materials relating to the life and problems of the negro group. The contents and format and processes of the negro news paper include many of the develop ments in American journalism."

RESEARCH BEING MADE-1939

SOUTHERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sociological Group Studies Population Trends

Constitution 4-1-39

Constitution Staff Photo—Slayton

Population trends absorbed the attention of this group of delegates attending the annual convention of the Southern Sociological Society yesterday at the Biltmore hotel. Left to right are Clyde V. Kiser, of Milbank Memorial Fund, New York; Miss Sarah Thurman, of Agnes Scott College; E. W. Gregory Jr., of the University of Alabama, president of the society, and Miss Nanita Guerry, of Emory University.

Mama and Papa Fight Over Money Most, Study Shows

Among Other Things, Sociologists Discover June Brides Largely in Fiction; Southeast Is Losing Talent; Birth Control Has Advanced in North Carolina.

Take it from the sociologists—mama and papa quarrel more over money than anything else.

This was brought out yesterday by E. H. Lott, of Louisiana State University, at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Lott's study on marital relations among Louisiana families was based on interviews with 362 university students.

Other research studies revealed that:

1. June brides are a misnomer in Montgomery county, Alabama.
2. North Carolina is breaking the ice in birth control.
3. The southeast is losing its talent.
4. Combination of industry and farming should be encouraged in southern states.
5. Students at the University of North Carolina are learning how to marry and live happily ever after.

Lott says most of the disagreement between parents centers around expenditures for things outside the home. But children bring them closer together. They agree on planning the child's vacation, protecting his health and giving him moral and religious training.

But when it comes to selecting radio programs, they start fussing again. For radio disagreement ranks second to finances.

Lott's study shows that the monetary disagreement usually involves (1) borrowing money; (2) purchasing items on credit; (3) certain investment phases of family business.

W. L. Leap, of Birmingham-Southern College, gave the statistics on marriages in Montgomery county, Ala. He said more marriage licenses are issued there in December than in any other month. Some one suggested maybe it was the Christmas spirit (singular.)

And as for negroes, they care nothing about this romantic June tradition. Fact is, June was the least preferred of all months by them.

Birth Control.

Margaret Jarman Hagood discussed the birth control progress in North Carolina. She said the program is carried on through the state board of health and its local public health units. Existence of many liberal influences in the state have been largely responsible for its advancement, she said.

Use of birth control services has been optional with local health units, and up to the present time has been adopted in 58 counties and four additional departments, she revealed. The service conists largely of contraceptive information to women of low economic groups, she said.

As for the southeast losing its talent, Dr. H. L. Geisert, of the University of Alabama, was alarmed by the fact that since 1900 the region experienced a greater loss of distinguished persons than others of the native white population.

Dorothy Dickins, of Mississippi State College, suggested the farming-industrial combination.

These part-time families, she pointed out, have an advantage over the farm group by having a larger cash income, and over the industrial group in a generous supply of home-produced food, which is necessary for good health.

A paper prepared by Donald S. Klaiss and read by Lee M. Brooks, of the University of North Carolina, explained that the university's special marriage course took up questions young people are asking about—courtship, choosing a mate, marital adjustments, pregnancy and childbirth, birth control and family living.

Hornell Hart, of Duke University, and Ellsworth Faris, of the University of Chicago, presented papers last night. Dr. Harvey W. Cox, president of Emory University, welcomed the group.

Others appearing on yesterday's program included Clyde V. Kiser, of Milbank Memorial Fund, New York; Ruth J. Wittmeyer, of the University of North Carolina; E. A. Schuler and Marion B. Smith, of Louisiana State University; Howard M. Harlan, of the University of Alabama; Delbert M. Mann, of Scarritt College; L. M. Bristol, of the University of Florida, and E. W. Gregory Jr., president of the society.

PRISONS WITHOUT WALLS ADVOCATED BY EXPERT HERE

Constitution 4-2-39

Sociologists Told That Normal Atmosphere Should Be Provided as Far as Is Practical.

BY LUKE GREENE.

Prisons that permit normal living — those without foreboding walls—should serve as powerful weapons in the war against crime, L. F. Chapman, superintendent of the Florida state prison, declared yesterday at the close of the fourth annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society.

Chapman said such prisons represent the modern trend in penology. He cited the present experiment in Florida in which special emphasis is being placed on rehabilitating criminals and sending them back into society to become good citizens. He described the experiment as "illuminating."

"Mose of the men and women who go to prison do so because they have been in the habit of living abnormally," he said. "Although no institution where men or women are crowded together is absolutely normal, the Florida state prison maintains an atmosphere as nearly normal as possible."

In creating this atmosphere, he said, there should be strict discipline. The Florida prison, however, has only six rules—no drinking, no weapons, no gambling, respect for officers, cleanliness and work. These, he explained, are rigidly enforced.

The superintendent emphasized the importance of work. He said every prisoner should work—even to the cripples "that must crawl around in the onion beds and loosen the soil."

He also thinks there should be no mysteries about a prison. That is why he dislikes walls. Mysteries, he said, frequently result in riots.

Walls "an Error."

"A wall about a prison is an error—social as well as financial," he said. "Certainly it is not good for the rehabilitation of criminals. Men grow if they can see."

The Florida prison has only a fence around it. On Sunday afternoons the prisoners play ball out in the open. They can see beyond the fence—see the woods, the flowers, the beauties of nature. They can wave to their friends who pass along the road. They get just enough liberty to realize what they are missing.

Chapman also pointed to the necessity for constant mental expansion in prisoners. He said there is a tendency toward regimentation. The prisoners learn to take the same step as the man in front. They follow a routine. And as a result they die mentally.

He was asked his opinion of Georgia's penal reform. He said he wanted it understood he was not being critical but explained he thought Governor Rivers' program was too sweeping to be accomplished in so short a time.

"The system is good," he said. "The people just couldn't digest it in so short a time. There have been misinterpretations. That is responsible for most of the confusion."

Treatment of Juveniles.

There were other discussions on criminology and penology. W. B.

CLASS OF WORKERS HELD 'RURBANITES'

Persons who live in the country and work in the city were classified yesterday by Mrs. Ruth J. Wittmeyer, of the University of North Carolina, at the closing session of the Southern Sociological Society.

She called such commuters "rurbanites."

Jones Jr., of the University of Tennessee, drew a tragic picture of treatment of juvenile offenders in that state.

Jones pointed to the physical set-up—the poorly equipped, unsanitary buildings in which the prisoners were housed. He talked on the inefficiency of certain courts and explained that the majority of probation officers are not qualified, being selected because of politics.

J. Herman Johnson, of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, outlined the parole system in Alabama and labeled it a "political racket."

"It is merely a political gesture to ease public opinion," he asserted. He pointed out that while the parole bureau, established four years ago, supervises only 133 paroles for one year, the Governor during the four-year period had granted over 2,000 paroles without recommendations of the parole bureau. The trouble, he said, was that the parole bureau was not being used.

There were discussions on race and culture. Ralph M. Davis, of the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, told how the negro newspaper reflects "consciousness of the group arising out of a conflict of situations, and is a specialized press of a minority group." Walter H. Chivers, of Morehouse College, reviewed the progress of negro adult education."

New officers of the Sociological Association are: Dr. Fred C. Frey, of Louisiana State University, president; Dr. Charles S. Johnson, of Fisk University, first vice president; Dr. Belle Boone Beard, of Sweet Briar College, Virginia, second vice president; Dr. B. O. Williams, of Clemson Agricultural College, secretary-treasurer. Members of the executive committee are Dr. Comer Woodward, of Emory University; Dr. Hornell Hart, of Duke University, and Dr. Walter C. Reckless, of Vanderbilt University.